

Washington Update

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1. CDC Announces New Goals and Organizational Design

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced on May 14, 2004, new goals and integrated operations that will allow the federal public health agency to have greater impact on the health of people around the world. The announcement evolved from an ongoing strategic development process called the Futures Initiative. The CDC will align its priorities under two overarching health protection goals: 1) Preparedness and 2) Health Promotion and Prevention of Disease, Injury and Disability. The new organization coordinated the agency's existing operational units into four coordinating centers to help the agency leverage its resources. The new coordinating centers and their directors are: Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases — Dr. Mitchell Cohen; Coordinating Center for Health Promotion — Dr. Donna Stroup; Coordinating Center for Environmental Health, Prevention, and Occupational Health — Dr. Henry Falk; and Coordinating Center for Health Information and Services — Dr. James Marks. Additionally, there will be two major offices: Office of Global Health with Dr. Stephen Blount in the lead and the Office of Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response led by Dr. Charles Schable. For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/futures/>.

2. NASEMSD and NAEMSP Express Concerns to JCAHO Regarding Ambulance Accreditation

Recent industry correspondence indicates that the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) is considering instituting an accreditation program for ambulance operations in the United States. The Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) has requested a meeting with JCAHO to engage in a candid discussion of how best to serve medical transportation providers seeking accreditation. NASEMSD and the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) on May 12, 2004, sent a letter to JCAHO expressing concern. The letter noted that CAAS has been accrediting ground ambulance providers since 1990. Similarly, the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS) accredits approximately 100 medical transport systems in the United States and Canada. “We believe that CAAS and CAMTS serve their respective industries effectively, and we continue to support and actively participate in their accreditation processes,” stated the letter. For more information, contact NASEMSD Executive Director Beth Armstrong at armstrong@nasemsd.org.

3. NFPA Standard Recommended to 9-11 Commission

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) recommended to the 9-11 Commission that a National Fire Protection Association Standard, NFPA 1600 Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs, be recognized as the national preparedness standard. NFPA 1600 establishes a common set of criteria for disaster management, emergency management and business continuity programs. In addition, it identifies methodologies for exercising those plans and provides a listing of resource organizations within the fields of disaster recovery, emergency management and business continuity planning. To view NFPA 1600, visit <http://www.nfpa.org/PDF/nfpa1600.pdf?src=nfpa>.

4. NGA Releases Paper on State Strategies for Accelerating Enhanced 9-1-1 Implementation

The National Governors Association (NGA) has prepared an Issue Brief, “State Strategies for Accelerating Enhanced 9-1-1 Implementation,” to provide an overview of several state strategies to be considered to achieve E9-1-1 service delivery goals. According to the report, the deployment of wireless E9-1-1 service is among the most urgent Homeland Security enhancements states currently face. Recognizing the critical need to improve 9-1-1 service, the FCC passed rules in 1996 that required all wireless carriers to provide pinpoint location information to the PSAPs or 9-1-1 dispatch centers by Dec. 31, 2005. For more information, visit <http://www.nga.org/cda/files/0404E911.pdf>.

5. NGIA Building a Single Homeland Security Geospatial Infrastructure Database

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGIA), in close coordination with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is building a single Homeland Security geospatial infrastructure database. The initiative is contractor supported, and many state EMS directors already may have been contacted. They are gathering location data on fire and police stations, hospitals, or other emergency services sector entities across the country. Anyone with questions about this project should contact Mr. Martin Tierney, deputy chief, North American and Homeland Security Division of the NGIA, at (301) 227-6219.

6. GAO Compiles Recommendations on Homeland Security

The Government Accounting Office (GAO) released a report that compiles recommendations on homeland security. Hundreds of recommendations have been made through Congressionally Chartered Commissions and GAO investigations. GAO was asked to review the reports of selected commissions and previously issued GAO reports and testimonies in order to identify the strategic recommendations made and organize them both by critical mission area and topic area. The report, “Homeland Security: Selected Recommendations from Congressionally Chartered Commissions and GAO” (GAO-04-591), is available at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04591.pdf>.

7. Bridgestone/Firestone Tire Recommends Program for Emergency Vehicle Tire Maintenance

Bridgestone/Firestone North American Tire, LLC, is currently conducting a campaign to alert public and private ambulance companies and EMS units throughout the United States to institute a program for tire safety and maintenance. They recommend a program to continually visually inspect all tires on the emergency vehicles for road hazard damage, cuts, and tears, and check the inflation to be sure it is enough for the service the tires experience. Bridgestone is sending a letter, technical bulletins, and a brochure to NASEMSD’s EMS provider database list during this campaign. All of the items in the mailing have been endorsed by NHTSA. Bridgestone/Firestone’s technical support line is 1-800-847-3272.

8. FEMA National Mutual Aid and Resource Management Initiative Web Site Updated

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Mutual Aid and Resource Management Initiative Web site has been updated to include the initial 60 Resource Typing Definitions. Visit the Web site at http://www.fema.gov/preparedness/mutual_aid.shtm.

9. Epilepsy Foundation Updating Treatment Guidelines

In 1993, the Epilepsy Foundation developed recommended guidelines for the treatment of status epilepticus. The Foundation has recently undertaken the project of updating these guidelines and has appointed a workgroup of professionals with extensive expertise in neurology, epilepsy, and emergency medicine. Throughout the process, the workgroup would like to have constituent organizations review the draft guidelines. NASEMSD would like to designate a point of contact for this project. Any State EMS Directory that would like to review the Guidelines and serve as the point of contact should contact Sharon Kelly at skelly@nasemsd.org.

10. CDC Releases New Set of Injury Data

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), and the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors' Association have released the second edition of the "State Injury Indicators Report" with 1999 data. Twenty-six state health departments voluntarily participated in this surveillance effort. The second edition incorporates data from a greater number of states and includes data on the poisoning indicator, with both gender and age-specific rates. The indicators were calculated by using state-level data from death certificates and hospital discharge records coupled with data from several national surveillance systems. The report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/indicators/INTRO-FIRE.pdf>.

11. Dr. Ileana Arias Named Acting Director of CDC Injury Center

Dr. Sue Binder will be retiring from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on June 7. She has served as the director of the Injury Center since December 2000. The acting director of the Injury Center will be Dr. Ileana Arias. She is a clinical psychologist with research expertise in intimate partner and family violence. She is currently the chief of the Etiology and Surveillance Branch of the Division of Violence Prevention at the Injury Center. She joined the CDC in 2000.

12. Mitretek and Harvard University Sponsor New Innovations in Homeland Security Award

Mitretek Systems and the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard's JFK School are accepting nominations for the first annual "Mitretek Innovations in Homeland Security Award." This is the first major national award program of its kind created since 9/11, to discover, recognize, and honor, the most effective programs designed to address homeland security. With this award the most effective and innovative programs will gain national attention and be more effectively integrated into urgent national policy and practice. Successful applicants will demonstrate their leadership by showing how they creatively reduced barriers to

innovative and effective interjurisdictional solutions for all kinds of homeland security challenges. For more information, a complete set of rules and an online nomination form, visit <http://www.HomelandSecurityInnovations.org>.

13. Upcoming Events (denotes event is newly added)**

Optimizing Emergency Department Management, May 24-25, 2004, The Wyndham Tremont, Boston, Mass. Information is available at <http://www.worldrg.com/>.

Rural-Frontier EMS Summit, May 26, 2004, San Diego, Calif. Held in conjunction with the NRHA Convention. Information is available at <http://www.nrharural.org/EMSagenda/> or contact EliBriggs@NRHArural.org.

Hospital Emergency Management Strategies, May 26-27, 2004, Tremont Hotel, Boston, Mass. Information is available at <http://www.worldrg.com/>.

2004 Defense Medical R & D and Procurement Conference, June 21-23, 2004, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Md. Information is available at <http://www.marketaccess.org/MEDCONF.asp>.

NASEMSD Mid-Year Meeting, June 26-27, 2004, Washington, DC. Program and registration details are available at <http://www.nasemsd.org/>.

Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services Summer 2004 Accreditation Seminar, July 24, 2004, Marriott Boston Copley Place Hotel, Boston, Mass. Information is available at <http://www.caas.org/>.

****Ready! The Emergency Preparedness and Response Conference & Exposition**, July 28-29, 2004, Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. Information is available at <http://www.readyusainfo.com>.

****National Association of EMS Educators 9th Annual Educational Symposium and Trade Show**, Sept. 7-12, 2004, Hollywood Renaissance, Los Angeles, Calif. Information is available at <http://www.naemse.org/symposium>.

The 2004 Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) Annual Meeting: “Highway Safety — Priority 1.0”, Sept. 25-29, 2004, Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii. Information is available at <http://www.ghsa.org>.

ASTHO 2004 Annual Meeting: “Communication, Cooperation, Coordination — Building Bridges in Public Health”, Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2004, St. Paul, Minn. Information is available at <http://www.astho.org/>.

Drive for Live, 2004 MADD National Conference, Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 2004, Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, Grapevine, Texas. Information is available at <http://www.madd.org/>.